Macro Management; Quality Control Arrangement on Seeds; Livestock Census; Training of Women in Agriculture; Training and Extension Support to North-Eastern Hill States (NEH); Watershed Development Project in shifting cultivation in North-East Region; and Agriculture Census etc.

(c) Allocation of funds by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation for Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes in Manipur State is as under:

| Year | Allocation (Rs. lakh) |
|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 946.05 |
| 1998-99 | 765.07 |
| 1999-2000 | 951.66 |
| 2000-2001 | 1090.08 |

(d) The Government of India is providing Central assistance for supplementing State efforts for agricultural development in Manipur under various Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes/ Programmes/Projects. The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is earmarking 10% of the total Plan Funds for the North Eastern Region. To achieve sustainable agricultural development in the State, efforts have been made in the areas of soil conservation, shifting cultivation and dry land farming in rainfed areas and horticulture development.

**Removal of difficulties of Farmers**

†2876. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme has been formulated by Government to mitigate the difficulties which were faced by the farmers during last year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are contemplating to reduce the increased

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

prices of diesel and fertilisers with a view to provide relief to the farmers; and

(d) whether Government have any scheme to ensure adequate price to the farmers for their produce together with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Government is implementing various Central and Centrally Sponsored Schemes to enhance production and productivity of agricultural produce, to provide inputs to farmers, to disseminate the technical know how and to facilitate the marketing of produce. The Government is also implementing National Agriculture Insurance Scheme to compensate farmers in case of any damage to the crop. Since October, 2000, 27 of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes have been merged under a single scheme entitled 'Macro Management of Agriculture' in order to provide flexibility to the State Governments to develop and pursue activities on basis of regional priorities. The Government has also enhanced import duties on several agricultural items to contain imports to safeguard the interest of farmers.

(c) No, Sir. The price fixed for diesel, urea and other fertilisers is already highly subsidised.

(d) Government is implementing Minimum Price Support Scheme under which the designated nodal agencies procure agricultural produce offered at Minimum Support Price. Government is also implementing Market Intervention Scheme for other agricultural items under which a predetermined quantity of selected agricultural items is procured at a mutually agreed price on specific request of State Government.